

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2625

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USEC BRUSSELS 1431

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 7561

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PLOS NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN PLANS FOR FISHING BY COUNTRIES OTHER THAN
USSR IN ITS 200-MILE ZONE

REF: (A) OSLO 5316 (B) OSLO 4535

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REPORTS ON NORWEGIAN PLANS FOR FISHING BY
COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE USSR IN ITS 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.
(PLANS FOR SOVIET FISHING ARE REPORTED IN OSLO 5316. END
SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS BRIEFING (REF A) ON OCTOBER 6 OF COUNTRIES
PRINCIPALLY AFFECTED BY NORWAY'S DECISION TO EXTEND A 200-MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND ITS MAINLAND, LOS MINISTER EVENSEN SAID
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THAT INCREASED FISHING OFF ITS COASTS HAD FORCED NORWAY TO

EXTEND ITS FISHING LIMITS. NORWAY WOULD SEEK RECIPROCAL FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH THE UK, USSR, AND PERHAPS DENMARK. FISHING BY WEST AND EAST GERMANY, POLAND, AND FRANCE, WHICH HAD FISHED IN NORWEGIAN WATERS FOR SOME TIME, WOULD BE PHASED OUT GRADUALLY. ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN IN AREAS WHERE THEY CUSTOMARILY FISHED, AND SOME TEMPORARY FISHING RIGHTS MIGHT BE GIVEN TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE EXCLUDED.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE USSR, EVENSEN SAID, NORWAY HAD ALREADY SCHEDULED NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLAND AND EAST GERMANY. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ALSO BE SCHEDULED SOON WITH FINLAND AND SWEDEN. THE EEC HAD NO NEGOTIATING MANDATE, BUT HE HOPED THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD AGREE ON ONE AT ITS MEETING ON OCTOBER 18. NEGOTIATIONS WERE WELL ALONG WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITH LONG STANDING FISHING OFF NORWAY, EXCEPT EEC MEMBERS. HE HOPED NORWAY COULD WRAP UP ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EVERYONE BY JANUARY 1, 1977. IF NOT, NORWAY'S PROPOSED ENABLING LEGISLATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES (C.F. OSLO 4535) ALLOWED NORWAY TO POSTPONE ENFORCEMENT OF JURISDICTION IN ITS ZONES. OVER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH AGREEMENTS WERE STILL BEING NEGOTIATED.

3. ELABORATING ON EVENSEN'S BRIEFING ON OCTOBER 7, LOS UNDER SECRETARY TREHOLT TOLD E/C COUNSELOR HE WAS DUBIOUS EEC WOULD AGREE ON A NEGOTIATING MANDATE ON OCTOBER 18. IF IT DID, NORWAY WOULD STILL INSIST UPON DESIGNATING WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO FISH OFF ITS COAST. IF IT DID NOT, THE UK HAD INDICATED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY WITH NORWAY. IN SUCH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS NORWAY WOULD AGREE TO ALLOW THE UK TO CONTINUE FISHING IN NORWEGIAN WATERS AT CURRENT LEVELS IN RETURN FOR RECIPROCAL RIGHTS IN BRITISH WATERS. NORWAY WOULD ALSO SEEK BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE. IF WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE WERE NOT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY, NORWAY WOULD INFORM THEM THAT THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE SPECIFIC QUANTITIES OF FISH OFF NORWAY'S COAST FOR THE STATED PERIOD OF TIME PENDING CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC. IN ANY EVENT THEIR FISHING WOULD BE PHASED OUT, FIRST WITHIN 50 MILES AND LATER WITHIN 200 MILES. HE DID NOT SEE

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GREAT DIFFICULTY OBTAINING WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH AGREEMENT TO NORWAY'S FISHING PROPOSALS. WEST GERMANY, HE SAID, WAS SO INTERESTED IN NORWEGIAN OIL AND GAS THAT IT WOULD NOT WISH TO ROCK THE BOAT BY CAUSING TROUBLE OVER FISHING. FRANCE HAD SIMILAR INTERESTS AND ALREADY HAD A CONSIDERABLE STAKE IN THE NORWEGIAN SECTOR OF THE NORTH SEA.

ANDERS

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